Borough of Aldeburgh

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1959

C. H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

C O N T E N T S

The Mayor,

The Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1959.

This report has been compiled to meet the requirements of the various Ministries concerned and once again I have endeavoured to present it in such a way that it will be at once useful and easy for reference.

I would like to record my thanks to both Council and Officers for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., Q.H.S., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W. Hodgson, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The estimated population of Aldeburgh increased by nearly 200 during the year from mid 1958 to mid 1959. It will be recalled that in my report for 1958 I drew attention to the Registrar General's estimate of the population as I felt, without having any definite proof, that the figures we were given were rather on the low side. The estimate for 1959 appears to justify my remarks as the population given for that year has reached the figure of 3010. It would appear from this that the steady growth of the population of the town is being maintained. It will be interesting to see how closely these estimates will accord with the Census which is due to take place in 1961.

In 1959 there were 78 live births in the Borough. This is the highest number for any year for which I have records and this coupled with the fact that for the sixth year in succession there have been no stillbirths recorded, can be regarded as an indication of a good all round standard of obstetric and nursing care in the area.

Deaths totalled 44 which is a slight increase over the previous year. The Death Rate per 1000 population however approximates to the rate for the previous years.

With regard to the analysis of deaths according to cause certain points may be noted. See page 15. Infectious disease in its various forms has ceased to be an important cause of mortality while the diseases associated with advancing age are coming more into prominence. This is probably due not to any absolute increase, but to a decrease in other groups bringing the diseases of the older age groups into relief. These diseases include those of heart and circulation and lesions of the nervous system.

The malignant diseases totalled 11 deaths and were rather more than in the previous years. The smallness of the numbers however makes the drawing of any definite conclusions difficult.

Deaths from violence numbered two, both of which were accidental.

The records of infectious disease notifications showed a total of 48 cases. Of this number 31 cases were accountable to an outbreak of a mild form of Sonne Dysentery in the spring and early summer. This type of infection occurs frequently in this county but usually in the form of sporadic cases. In this instance it entailed a lengthy search before the origin of the infection was proved to be a school child the mildness of whose symptoms had concealed the weight of infection. Once discovered and dealt with at source the number of cases gradually decreased as the infection died out. One of the great handicaps in investigating an infection of this

type lies in the mildness of symptoms in some cases. So much is this so that the patient may be in no way incapacitated and not bother to call for medical advice. This of course means that a number of cases may go unreported although they are carriers of the infection.

For the second year in succession we had no cases of poliomyelitis. Although it is early to form a definite opinion on the effectiveness of the control of this disease by the nationwide immunisation programme, the experience we have had over the past year or two suggests that some, at least, of the credit for the fall in the incidence must be attributed to this measure.

Immunisation against other diseases such as Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough, must not be forgotten nor should vaccination against Smallpox. Modern methods of travel enable diseases to be carried half over the world in a few hours and individual protection against infection must take its place in our defence.

Although the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register remains fairly static there are definite signs that this disease is on the wane and will eventually cease to be a common hazard of health. Milk as a source of Tuberculosis infection has ceased to hold its former danger in this area at least. Milk from goats however may still carry some hazard.

It will be recalled that recently the Ministry of Fuel & Power made proposals to erect a Nuclear Power Station on the coast nearby. These proposals now seem to have been agreed and I understand that work will commence during the next 2 - 3 years.

In view of this and of the possibility that such a station might have some bearing on the wellbeing of Aldeburgh I have been in communication with the Ministry and with the Atomic Energy Authority with the object of being kept in the picture as regards any tests which might be made. I am glad to say that I have had some very helpful letters from these authorities and I am hopeful that we shall not have any difficulty in obtaining any necessary information when work is commenced. From the information I have so far gathered and from an interesting visit I paid some time ago to a similar type of station in course of erection I feel sure that this project will not contribute any hazard to the health of the Borough.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough.....2,679 acres.

Rateable Value.....£45,221.

Product of 1d. Rate.....£189.

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary Covering Five Years

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Population	3010	2820	2780	2750	2720
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	25.9 (78)	20.6 (58)	24.4 (68)	21.1 (58)	16.9 (46)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.6 (44)	12.5 (35)	13.3 (37)	14.9 (41)	13.6 (37)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	12.8 (1)	17.3 (1)	44.1 (3)	-	-

Figures in brackets are the actual number of relevant births or deaths.

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	BIRTHS			
	Legitimate	28	44	72
	Illegitimate	4	2	6
2.	STILL BIRTHS.			
	Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
3.	ALL DEATHS.	24	20	44
4.	INFANTILE DEATHS.	1	-	1
5.	DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDBIRTH.	-	-	-

COMPARABILITY.

For the purposes of statistical comparison with other districts of different sizes and composition the Registrar General supplies a factor which when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

Birth Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	26.7
" "	England & Wales per 1,000 population	16.5
Death Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	11.7
" "	England & Wales per 1,000 population	11.6

DEATHS BY CAUSES

		1957	1958	1959		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-
2.	" Others	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	1	-	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1	-	1
11.	" " Lung Bronchus	-	1	3	-	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	-	-	-
13.	" " Uterus	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	6	2	5	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	-	-	1	1	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	6	6	2	8
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	6	8	4	5	9
	Total carried forward	17	22	18	14	32

		1957	1958	1959		
				Male	Female	Total
	Brought Forward	17	22	18	14	32
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	-	-	-
20.	Other Heart Diseases	8	6	2	2	4
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	-	-	-	-
22.	Influenza	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	-	1	-	-	-
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	5	6	2	3	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	2	-	2
34.	All other Accidents	1	-	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	2	-	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and actions of war	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	37	35	24	20	44

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Monthly Incidence

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1959	1958	1957
Measles				3			3						6	1	6
Erysipelas			1										1		2
Whooping Cough			1										1		13
Infective Jaundice															1
Scarlet Fever															1
Poliomyelitis															1
Dysentery			4	17	2	6		2					31		
Food Poisoning					1								1	1	
Tuberculosis							1					1	2	1	
Acute Primary Pneumonia			1	1	1			3					6		
													48	3	24

Age Distribution

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50	Total
Measles	1	3		1		1					6
Erysipelas										1	1
Whooping Cough		1									1
Dysentery	1	2	4	10	4	1	2	7			31
Food Poisoning		1									1
Tuberculosis								1		1	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia		2	1	2		1					6

TUBERCULOSIS

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 1st January 1959	4	-	4	2	10
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time	1	-	1	-	2
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December 1959	4	-	5	2	11

WATER SUPPLY

The source of supply has remained the same as in previous years the water being extracted from the Coralline Crag layer by feeders, to a pumping well. Extraction is by ram pump at a nominal rate of 18,000 gallons per hour, delivering to a high level storage tower of 35,000 gallons capacity. A total quantity of 58 million gallons was abstracted during the year.

During the month of June difficulty was experienced in maintaining a supply to premises situated on high ground due to the heavy and continuous demand during a drought period. The situation was overcome by the imposition of a restriction on the use of hose pipes for garden watering purposes before 6 p.m. daily. Towards the end of July the situation worsened and the use of hosepipes was prohibited. This restriction reduced consumption from 263,000 gallons per day to 182,000 gallons per day. The restriction remained in force until September.

Throughout the year the quality of the water remained excellent, 9 samples being taken from source and 9 from distribution mains for bacteriological analysis, and 1 sample from source for chemical analysis.

Typical results were as follows:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT - RAW WATER FROM WELL

Water from Shallow Well, sample taken from No. 1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.

Date and hour of collection of sample	21.7.59	08.00 hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample	21.7.59	15.05 hrs.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically	-	per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C	0	per 100 ml.
" " " Bact. coli (type I)	-	per 100 ml.

Remarks

Bacteriological findings excellent.

(sgd) J. M. S. Dixon

M.O. i/c P.H. Laboratory.

Water from shallow well taken from tap at 18 Fairfield Road.

Date and hour of collection	21. 7.59	08.25 hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample	21.7.59	15.05 hrs.

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37° C. aerobically	- per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C	0 per 100 ml.
" " " Bact. coli (Type I)	- per 100 ml.

Remarks

Bacteriological findings excellent.

(sgd) J. M. S. Dixon
M.O. i/c P.H. Laboratory

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample taken from	No.1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.
Date received	3rd June, 1959.
Appearance	Clear.
Nature of Deposit	Nil.
Colour	Nil.
Reaction	Faintly alkaline pH 7.5.
Odour	Nil.
Taste	Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.02	Hardness as $CaCO_3$:	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.03	Total	310
Nitrate nitrogen	7.5	Carbonate (temporary)	200
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	110
Chlorine as chlorides	72	Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	200
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27° C.)	0.1	Free carbon dioxide	15
		Total solids (at 180°C.)	515
		Iron (total)	0.07
		Metals in solution other than iron	-

Opinion

This water is of the usual very good organic quality and the chemical analysis as a whole shows no sign of polution. The salinity and total dissolved matter are somewhat lower than that obtained on the last occasion of sampling (see our Cert. No. 160.J, 30th May, 1958).

The rest of the analysis calls for no special comment; metallic contamination is absent and the total hardness is approximately 22° Clark, a normal figure in East Anglia. The appearance, odour and taste of this water are all satisfactory and in our opinion, on the chemical evidence, this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.

(sgd.) E. P. Underwood.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No extensions were carried out to main sewers during the year.

The Council have had the proposed alterations and extension of the sewerage system and disposal works under active consideration during the year and have given special consideration to the possible extension of the scheme to include a part of the town which is rapidly developing and not at present served by a sewer. Some 37 existing properties at present drained to cesspools or septic tanks could be connected to the system which would also be available to numerous vacant sites in the area. Sewage from the area would require pumping into the head of an existing sewer.

HOUSING

Statistics.

No. of new Council Houses completed during the year	NIL.
No. of Council Houses occupied at 31.12.59	140
No. of units of accommodation requisitioned at 31.12.59	NIL
No. of private houses completed during the year	12
Total No. of units of accommodation within the Borough	1178
No. of houses inspected	36
No. unsatisfactory	16
No. rendered fit by informal action	14
Abatement Notices served	NIL
No. of Demolition Orders secured	NIL
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders	NIL
No. of dwellings demolished	NIL
No. of Improvement Grants - Discretionary	10
" " Standard	4

ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS AND REGULATIONS

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No. of factories employing mechanical power	12
No. of factories without mechanical power	4
Other Premises (Sec.103, 107 and 108)	13
Visits made during the year	30
Outworkers	NIL

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises where treatments carried out,	Dwellinghouses	40
	Other Premises	3

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	9	Ice Cream	17
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	3
Bakers	2	Greengrocers	6
Sweets other than Grocers	2	Slaughterhouses	1
		Cafés	5

Number of Food Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Dealers	17	Sausage Manufacturers	3

No. of inspections of registered premises 17.

Milk and Dairies.

Licences issued:-

Dealers.	Pasteurised	2
"	T.T. (Pasteurised)	2
Supplementary.	Pasteurised	1
"	T.T. (Pasteurised)	1

MEAT INSPECTION.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	54	3	105	68
No. inspected	54	3	105	68
Whole carcases condemned:				
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:				
Tuberculosis	4	-	-	3
Other causes	1	-	-	-

No cases of cysticercosis were found.

NOTE:

Condemned food is normally disposed of by burial on refuse tip sites.

No special examinations have been carried out on consignments of food.